



THE MAXX

TM



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SHE SAID YOU'D SAY THAT. BUT SHE TOLD ME THAT IF WE WERE EVER SEPARATED...THAT YOU WOULD--

LOOK, KID. I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR MOM, BUT I'VE RETIRED FROM THE SHELTER AND--

YOU ARTEMIS GONE?

NOPE. NAME'S PENDER.

YOU USED TO KNOW HER. MY NAME'S MARK. MARK WI-

I'VE LOST TRACK OF HER. BUT THERE'S A GUY NAMED DAVE...HE MAY'VE KEPT UP WITH HER. LAST I HEARD, HE WORKED DOING MAINTENANCE DOWNTOWN AT THIS ADDRESS.

NOW PLEASE GO! I'VE HAD ENOUGH GHOSTS REAPPEAR LATELY.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

NORBERT WENT BACK TO THE DUMP TO BUILD A MASK TO COVER HIS CONSPICUOUSLY LONG FACE. AT LEAST IT GIVES ME TIME TO DIGEST EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED.

THIS IS ALL DAD'S FAULT.

THAT GIRL LOOKS SAD.

SHE NEEDS A BIG HUG.









DON'T RUN AWAY FROM
YOUR FEELINGS,
LITTLE GIRL...

C'MON, SARA,
HURRY! HURRY!
GOTTA GET THIS
THING UNDER THE
PIER BEFORE...

THAT'S IT...

...KEEP
GOING...

THERE!!
SCREW YOU,
BUDDY!

NOW IF I CAN
STOP SHAKING,
MAYBE I CAN
CATCH MY BREATH
AND THINK!

MY BEST BET IS
TO KEEP THIS PIER
BETWEEN ME AND
HIM, AND SLOWLY
WORK MY WAY BACK
TO SHORE. THAT
SHOULD WORK.

YOU CAN
"LOOKIE"...

THAT'S
RIGHT,
BUDDY...



I THINK I'M
GETTING LOOPY.
HOW DO I GET
MYSELF INTO
THESE THINGS?

I WISH I WAS
WITH STEVE, BACK
HOME, OR EVEN
WITH NORBERT,
AT THE DUMP.
ANYWHERE BUT...
BUT...

OH--
LOOKIE, PRETTY
MOONLIGHT...
THAT REMINDS
ME OF--

DAMMIT!
HERE WE GO
AGAIN!

FINE, WHATEVER.
TAKE THE STUPID
SKIRT.



HEY--
LEGOO
O'MY--

OOFFF!



OKAY--I WON'T FIT!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I
HAVE TO BE ROTATED
BEFORE HE GETS IT?

...LEG,

OUCH!
STOP
TWISTING IT,
YOU STUPID
@#\$%&!!





FINALLY! BOY,
IS THIS SLUG
DENSE! MAYBE
NOW HE'LL LEAVE
ME ALONE!

I CAN'T KEEP
GOING LIKE
THIS—I FEEL LIKE
I'M GOING TO
CRACK UP.

YOU KNOW, IF I
WAS A WEAKER
PERSON, I MIGHT
HAVE BURST INTO
TEARS BY NOW.

WAKING



WELL, IF HE THINKS
THROWING BODY
PARTS WILL DRIVE
ME OUT OF THIS
BOAT—FAT CHANCE!

UNDERNEATH...
SOMETHING'S...
TRYING TO...

OH MAN!
THEY CAN
SMELL THE
FINGERS!

PLOR!

GREAT!
NOW WATER'S
LEAKING IN!

HE
WANTS 'EM
TO EAT RIGHT
THROUGH THE
BOAT, EH?

WELL,
WE'LL
JUST SEE
ABOUT
THAT...

THERE! HAVE
YOUR FEEDING
FRENZY OVER
THERE!

BOY,
THEY'RE
STARVED!
LOOK AT
'EM!

SPLASH!

HMM...
SINCE WHEN DO
PIRANHAS HAVE
BOWS ON THEIR
HEADS?

OKAY, THIS IS
IT...
...IT'S OVER.

AWW, SCREW
IT! HE WANTS
A FIGHT?

HE'S
GOING
TO GET
ONE.





HOW 'BOUT A
HUG?

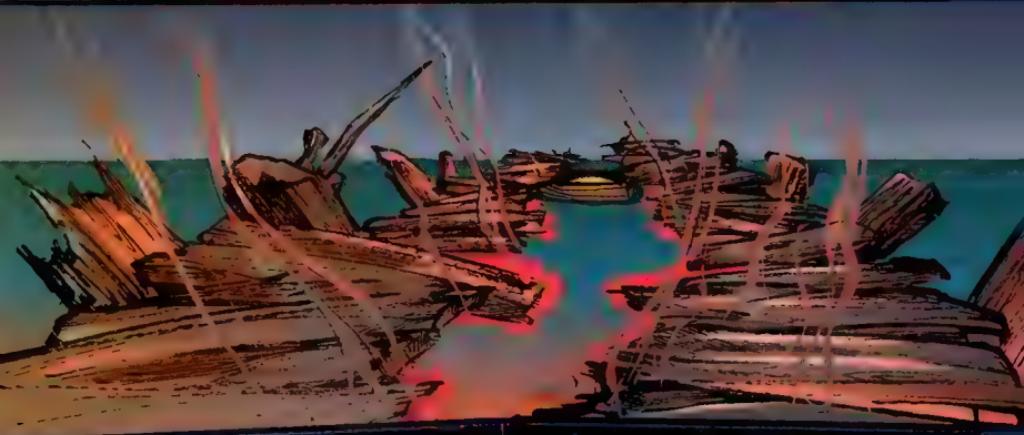


C'MON,
SLICKER, I'M
READY...









OKAY, DADDY,
I WANT THE
TRUTH.

AND
DON'T DENY
KNOWLEDGE
OF ALL THIS
SUPERNATURAL
CRAP. I SAW THE
SLUG TONIGHT.

HOW DO
WE STOP
IT?

WHY'D YOU
LIE ABOUT
GRANDPA IN
THE URN?

AND...
WHAT'S UP
WITH MY HAND
GLOWING AND
MOVING STUFF?

YOU'RE
ALREADY
MOVING
THINGS?
LIKE
WHAT?

A PIER.

A WHOLE
PIER?! YOU
MOVED A
WHOLE
PIER?!

WELL...
MORE LIKE
"TRASHED"...

COOL.

LOOK,
I DON'T
BELIEVE
IN THIS
CRAP.

I CAN'T EXPLAIN
IT...IF I'M EXPLODING
PIERS, CHANCES ARE
THAT YOU'RE BEHIND
IT.

IT'S NOT MY DOING,
HONEY. IT'S COMING
FROM YOU, AND IT'S A
POSITIVE FORCE, NOT
EVIL. BELIEVE IT OR
NOT, IT'S TIED TO THE
MENSTRUAL CYCLE, AND
IT'S BEEN OVERDUE IN
YOUR DEVELOPMENT.

I GUESS THE
STRESS BROUGHT IT
ALL SPILLING OUT AT
ONCE, BUT DON'T BE
ASHAMED, SARA—IT'S
BEAUTIFUL. MY LITTLE
GIRLS BECOME A
WOMAN.

DON'T GET
WEIRD ON ME,
ARTIE. IT'S NOT
LIKE I HAD MY
FIRST PIERIOD
OR
SOMETHING.

CAN WE TALK
ABOUT SOMETHING
LESS WEIRD-LIKE
STOPPING THAT 300
POUND KILLER SLUG?

NORBERT'S
RIGHT, SARA. GET
THE LIST AND YOU
STOP IAGO.

OKAY...
WHERE'S THE
LIST?

WELL, IAGO'S
GOT ONE, AND
THE OTHER ONE'S...

...IN THE
LURN.

WHAT?

SH*T.

IT'S MY GIFT
TO YOU, SARA. I KNEW
IF I TOLD YOU THAT
YOUR GRANDDAD WAS
IN IT, YOU'D KEEP IT
TUCKED AWAY SAFE
AND SOUND.

IF YOU CAN WARN
THE OTHERS ON THE
LIST, IAGO'S REASON
FOR BEING WOULD
DISAPPEAR...AND HIM
WITH IT.

DAMMIT, DADDY,
WHERE WERE YOU
WHEN IT MATTERED?
WHEN ME AND MOM
NEEDED YOU? OUT
SCREWING WOMEN
OVER!

NOW THAT I'M
TOO OLD TO NEED
A DAD, YOU DECIDE
TO BE MR. NICE
GUY...NOW THAT
IT'S TOO LATE.

ARE YOU
SURE YOU'RE
TOO OLD TO
NEED ONE,
SARA?

COMPLETELY.

OKAY.

WELL, YOU'RE
OBVIOUSLY MORE
MATURE THAN ME,
CAUSE I REALLY
MISS HAVING A
DALIGHT-

LOOK, I'M NOT
SURE I CAN EVER
TRUST OR LOVE
YOU AGAIN...

BUT I'M WILLING
TO LISTEN TO YOUR
EXPLANATION OF
HOW YOU CAME TO
BE THIS WAY.

IN FACT, I'M
GONNA KEEP
COMING BACK
HERE UNTIL
YOU'RE WILLING
TO...

WELL, SOMEDAY,
WHEN YOU'RE
READY TO HEAR IT,
AND I'M READY TO
SHARE...IT'S ALL
OVER THERE...









Well, it finally happened. Between Bill's schedule of doing five other books and him trying to nudge me into writing a few issues of my own (like #16), I decided to own up to the madness I've started and write this book myself. While I'll miss Bill terribly, he'll have more time to work on *Journey* and other projects that are his. But this won't be the last you'll see of him in these pages, hopefully, 'cause he's promised a crossover with his *Journey* character, Wolverine McAlister, in a future issue. Until then, I'm afraid you're stuck with me, with help from Old Uncle Mike. (Please don't be too hard on us; we're still learning as we go.)

Dear Sam,

Uh...I guess your comic book THE MAXX is the best I've ever read. I'm only 11 but I sure know if a comic is good or not.

If you know, am I your youngest fan?

Austin Havicar

Houston, TX

Sorry, Austin, but Phillip Banks of Blytheville, AR (who sent us a drawing) beat you out at the ripe old age of 7, although it seems to me we've gotten stuff from even younger.

Dear Sam,

Yes, you're right, Alan did write a cool story. Mr. Gone (Artie) is still a nasty dude, even if he's lying about it to Sara. (What's that saying about

a leopard not changing its spots?)

But anyway, the focus on Sara is just fine with me. It looks like her character has no real direction anymore, and another confrontation

with Mr. Gone (Artie) could help push her back into some much-needed self-reliance. And if not that, it should

JEREMY TINDER



RYAN IMHOFF Palmyra, PA

focused on Sara's story.
John R. Shearer
North Olmsted, OH

Dear Sam,

1. How did Sara, after nailing shut the bathroom flap, get out of her john? I've looked all over the floor plan, but I can't see another exit.
2. Are the "Friends of Maxx" stories going to replace the regular Maxx for that month?

Sincerely,
Brian Stegeman
Lawton, OK

1. You got the wrong flap. The **cat flap by the toilet (nailed shut)** is 6"X9". The **door flap** (at the other end) is 3'X3'. P.S. I forgot to draw the cat flap in the map in #21.
2. No, not replace—normally I took every third month to catch up, but instead I decided to do twice the work and pump out 48 pages of "Friends of Maxx" instead. Pretty stoopid, huh?

Sam & Company,

"My role in society, or any artist's or poet's role is to try and express what we all feel. Not to tell people how to feel. Not as a preacher, not as a leader, but as a reflection of us all." —John Lennon

Well I think you have done a grand job of reflecting the emotions of many of us lost within society. Keep it up!! You guys Rock!!!!

Jenny Gaitsch
Nashville, TN

P.S. Ish 22 you spelled my friend Sean's

last name wrong; it's LAMBERGER not Sanberger. Just thought I would tell you!! OH!! What's up with Fred Flower & Uncle Italian Moose?!?! Anything?
Nope.

Caribou Sam,

Hey.. about ish 22: Cool. You printed my stuff...BUT YOU SPELT MY NAME RIGHT!!!

I'm gone,

Tung Nguyen

Hey—I bet you WROTE LEGIBLY!!! What a concept...

Dear Sam,

1. I like the new villain as a slug with a list and I'm sure we'll find out later what it is. I do have one question concerning the slug. Is he trying to appease the fairies, or trying to kill them?
2. I noticed that some panels look painted. Are they actually painted or does the colorist make them look like that? If they are, do you do this for a reason or just for fun?
3. So, Sarah can move the glass. Is this just with her subconscious mind or can she learn to do this consciously as her father said.
4. When this story is over, will you be doing someone that has no connection to the first two, or will you be going back to Julie?

Tom Johnson
Rutland, MA

1. Appear.

2. Everything that looks painted was painted by me.

Steve colors the rest.

Nothing I do has a reason; I paint 'cause it's fun.

3. We just saw what her hand did this issue (unless you're reading Maxx Traxx first), and since it comes from her subconscious, she has no control of it yet, so her conscious mind has a lot of trouble dealing.

4. For some reason I keep visualizing Julie's son and his Outback. Anybody curious about a male Outback?

Sam,

What the #@*% are you trying to do! Get me to stop reading! 21 and 22 suck! You changed Sarah to Sara and no Maxx. He's the whole freakin' reason I buy this comic! Oh yeah, the Gen13/Maxx crossover really sucks!

Now for the positive junk. The Maxx figure is very cool. (I really like the bend-dom ls.) Will there be a Mr.

**SANDRO KOPP
Germany**



Gone with a detachable head? Will there be a Maxx/Spawn crossover?

Oh, and Chris Olson, I discovered Maxx on MTV. I have also every freakin' issue (no offense, Sam). I have the poster, the figure, I'm a Maxxhead!! Chris shut the #@%* up about your MTV #*%@! Oh and Melissa K.'s letter made me write that last paragraph.

So thank you Melissa. Oh and Sam, your comic kicks butt!

Alex Hackert
Long Beach, CA



ANDREA MINOJA
Padova, Italy

Dear Sam,

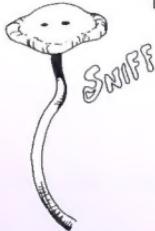
I am truly sorry about my comment about THE MAXX TV show in my last letter. I didn't mean that I didn't love the first season, it's that it is being shown on MTV. Now I hope I do not offend anyone, but my opinion is that MTV is easily the worst channel ever created! But, if that's all you can get, then I have no complaints. If it isn't, then I complain that the best book on earth is being submitted to a bunch of Yo-boys who would mock it if it didn't come on their favorite channel. Anyways, I would rather have a show that attracted people to my book instead of tempting them to discuss it on MTV YACK LIVE.

Love your book,
Nathaniel Long
Annapolis, MD

Any show or cartoon or toy that turns on one more Maxxhead is OK by me.



*The six drawings are done by R. BOULIE, The Netherlands



Dear Sam,
The itsy, bitsy is
Climbed up the water spout.
Up came THE MAXX,
To tear his gizord out.
Out cam Mr. Gone,
To cause THE MAXX some pain.
And the itsy, bitsy is
Attacked THE MAXX again.

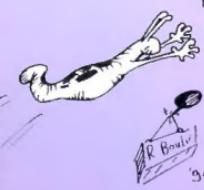
Thanks for hearing
my thoughts,
Dustin Hutt
Colorado



Dear Sam Kieth,
In Maxx #19 Mr. Gone
popped his head through into
the real world and saw Julie.
He then said, "Great Googly
Moogly." In a Frank Zappa song
on the album, Apostrophe, the same
phrase, "great googly moogly," comes
up in "Nanook Rubs It." An inspira-
tion of yours?

Your watchful fan
Sean Ricci

**Actually it was Uncle
Mike (Heisler) who
came up with that.
It was 3 in the morning
and nobody could think
of anything profound for
Mr. G to say when he saw
the lamp.**



Hey Sam,

I saw there's a Frank Zappa album called The Grand Wazoo. What other album names have you taken and named places, persons, and things with?

A lab accident gone
hideously mad,
Myron Smith
Ridgeway, VA

**OK, ya got me. I used to
listen to Zappa's music a
lot, and those old names
and images still fly through
my mind now and then.**

Dear Sam,

I've never written to a comic
book before. But then again you
aren't a comic book.

Todd
Chalmette, LA

Yo Mister Kieth,

#21 was extramundaneously cool. (Oatmeal biscuit
to Alan for doing a good job, please!)
But I'm afraid I've already figured out
all the plotlines and secret
personalities:

Sara is really Sarah,

from Maxx 5-20 (I'm good, ain't I?)

Steve (who is actually Julie, who
robbed a bank and had to have an
operation to get away from the
cops) is going to cut Artie's head
off before we find out what the
truth is, and all this dream-reality-
crap will start anew. Sara will be
bitten by a radioactive spider and
decide to fight crime, and in the end,
the l'il banana slug will do something
to make the world end.

Sandro Kopp
Germany

P.S. I love-a Fred Flower and
Uncle Italian Moose.

**I think Dave and I started
something with The
Flower and The Moose.
Gee—a cult following after
just a one-page ad...**



CHUNG



Dear Sam,

When I read issues 21 and 22, I
thought you were nuts! I mean,
Sarah(h) on welfare, and her
mom with cancer? Top it all
off with NO MAXX, and
you've got one angry David
(me). But after I read them
some more and read issue 23,
I realized that it's still a great
book.

Also, when I started to read those
issues, I realized that the bum Julie hit in
her car is named Dave. My name is David!! The old

MICK MORRIS
Lee's Summit, MO

"wino" that followed
Sarah(h) around is
called Norbert. MY
LAST NAME IS NOR-

BERY!!! Dave Norbert/David
Norbery? Wow!

Sincerely
David Norbery
(AKA The Maxx)

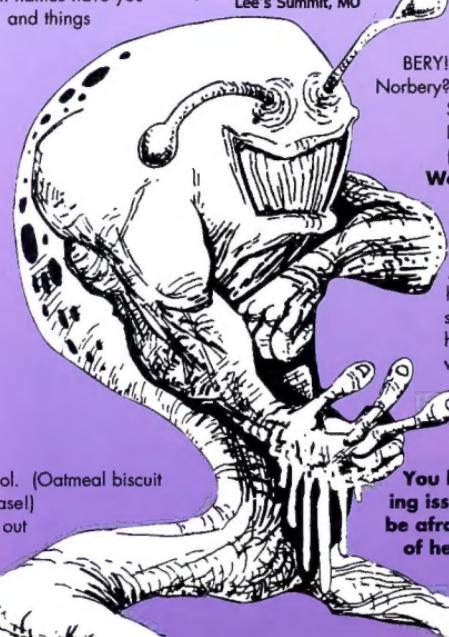
Wow!

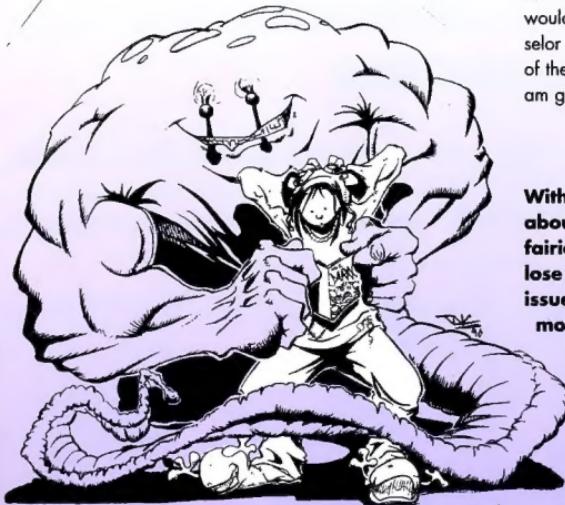
Mr. Kieth,
Sara is now "The
Julie" in the book, but she
has Gone's powers. Will
she be the villainess or the
heroine? (Lord knows,
with her disposition she
could conceivably be
both.)

Amado Rodriguez, Jr.
Milwaukee, WI

**You bring up an interesting
issue—that Sara might
be afraid there's evil inside
of her because Gone is
her dad.**

I wonder...





Dear Sam,

This is about a letter I saw in issue #20 from Jason Quane. This is to anyone who has ever felt like him.

I was exactly like him, action figures and all, no hope of having any friends or a girlfriend. It was like that for a while and I almost gave up hope but then I realized I had to quit feeling sorry for myself, and as soon as I did that, everything changed—not in a day, it took a while and it was hard, but I did it. I have friends, a girlfriend, and a life.

Even now that I changed so much, I still come home every day to my action figures and Star Wars videos, but most of all, The Maxx.

Chris Olsen was right: even now, if I lost all my friends and my girlfriend dumped me, I would still feel better knowing that no matter how many friends you have, there's always someone who feels just like you do and all your fellow Maxxheads are there for you.

From a friend

Dear Sam,

I was reading through some back issues, and I was wondering if it would ever be explained as to how or why Mr. Gone became a Serial Rapist. Since the next few issues will be dealing with Mr. Gone and Sarah, I would like to see this subject addressed. I am a counselor by profession, and I enjoy the multifaceted qualities of the characters, particularly Mr. Gone and Sarah. I am glad to see you addressing their characters more.

Thank you for your time,

John Merck
Gainesville, GA

JOHAN TOORELL
Sweden

With all this stuff about slugs and fairies, I don't want to lose sight of those issues either. But the more I keep adding, the more I have NO idea how to wrap this story up by #30.

Screw it. I guess the story will just have to dictate which issue we end up on.



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PS/HOUSEKEEPING DETAILS WE GET ASKED

ALL THE TIME: No subscriptions or retail sales available/sorry. Use Head to Head to find back issues/fan clubs/whatever (use the address in the indicia)/postcards are cheap and easy like us/**WRITE LEGIBLY.** No we don't

print all the letters or art we get/ too many/ yes we do read them **ALL/** you might get answered or printed or edited/ you might not/ life's funny that way.

B&Wart

has better chance of being published than color/ can't return artwork/ sorry. Keep 'em coming/ the better the letters and submissions, the better the book! Oh yeah.

BART SARIC
Santa Monica, CA





FRANK VAN SEIJEN
-1996-

FRANK VAN SEIJEN
The Netherlands